

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Title of the application with the following:

Variable Characteristic Venous Access Catheter Shaft

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] The pressure created by fluid injections drops as fluid travels distally down the shaft, approaching ~~systematic~~ systemic pressure as the fluid enters the target vessel. Because of this decreasing pressure gradient, the distal segment of the PICC line does not have to have the same burst pressure properties as the proximal segment, where the pressure level is higher. Accordingly, the distal segment of the PICC shaft retains its structural integrity during injections even though it has reduced tensile and pressure capabilities.